

## Behavior Code

Teen Court prohibits chewing gum, use of tobacco, use of obscene language and food or drink while on court property.

## Dress Code

Court is a formal, serious place demanding respect. The following dress code will be observed by all participants:

- No gang colors/paraphernalia
- Jeans must be neat and clean
- No inappropriate T-shirts
- Shirts neatly tucked in
- No tank tops
- No flip-flops
- No shorts
- No caps

Teen court reserves the right to refuse to hear cases from those who fail to abide by the outlined dress code. Furthermore, Teen Court will refuse jury duty to those who fail to abide by the dress code.

## Reminder

You have **90 DAYS** from the date of your trial to complete your community service, jury terms and any additional sentencing. Your failure to complete within the allocated **90 DAYS** will result in your case being returned to Municipal Court and a fine of up to \$500.00 plus court costs.

This is your opportunity to keep your record clear and avoid paying the fine assessed by Municipal Court.

For more information about San Antonio Teen Court contact:

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City of San Antonio  
Department of Community Initiatives  
Youth Services Division

**APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT THE  
TEEN COURT OFFICE**

City of San Antonio  
Department of Community Initiatives  
Youth Services Division



## Teen Court

401 S. Frio #218  
San Antonio, TX 78207  
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## What is Teen Court?

San Antonio Teen Court is a voluntary judicial program that allows Class C misdemeanor offenders to “pay” for their citation through community service and jury duty. They appear before a jury of their peers.



## Authority for Teen Court

The 71st Texas Legislature in 1989 passed amendments to the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure (Chapter 45, Art. 45.052) and the Texas Family Code (Chapter 54, Art. 54.032) relating to the dismissal of certain misdemeanor charges upon completion of Teen Court program.

## Benefits of Teen Court

Successful completion of Teen Court requirements within the specified time results in dismissal of the case and a clear record. Also, the youth becomes acquainted with the judicial system and experiences the satisfaction of contributing to the community.

## Eligibility

Youth (ages 13-17) may request Teen Court from the Municipal Judge. The defendant must plead guilty or “no contest” for referral to Teen Court.

## Enrollment

After referral from the Municipal Court Judge, the defendant must contact the Teen Court Coordinator to schedule a 30 minute interview. During this interview, a court date is set, questions are answered and paperwork is completed. A parent/guardian is required to attend.

## How Teen Court Works

Each defendant is appointed a volunteer teen defense attorney. Volunteer teen prosecutors are assigned to represent the State. Teens and attorneys meet from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. to discuss the case. Occasionally, defense attorneys may wish to call their assigned defendants at home prior to the court date.

Each hearing is conducted before a jury of volunteer teens and/or past defendants completing their sentences. At the conclusion of each case, the jury retires to deliberate before handing down community service hours, number of jury terms or other sanctions.

## Location

Teen court is held every Wednesday evening at the City of San Antonio, Frank D. Wing Municipal Court Building, Court Room 6, starting at 5:30 p.m. The courtroom is a formal and serious place and respect is required in a regard to proper dress and behavior.

## Volunteer Participation

Volunteering for San Antonio Teen court is an educational and rewarding opportunity for both youth and adults. Teens volunteer as prosecution and defense attorneys, bailiffs, clerks, jurors and judges. A sixteen hour training is required for youth wanting to participate as attorneys, bailiffs or judges. No training is required for jurors.

## Reasons why Teen Court works:

- Youth learn to assume responsibility and be accountable for their actions
- Teen Court can reduce the juvenile crime rate
- Parents/guardians are involved
- Promotes youth involvement within the community
- The teen’s juvenile court record remains clear of violations
- Teen court is completely voluntary
- Teens have an opportunity to learn about the judicial system.

